

National Trust monthly brief: October 2024 (Andrew Danson)

Subject (add as appropriate)	Comment & update	Milestone dates (e.g. start work / completion)	Main NT contact	OK to share via PC website?
Big Nature, Better Access	Lodge Park is now closed until next year. Work has begun in developing our offer for next year. Successful community volunteering day held on Sunday September 29th. Tasks carried out include verge management, mowing, ivy removal and wildflower seed sowing. Thank you to everyone who came along it was a lot of fun, and we all stayed dry. We are working with colleagues to produce a schedule of community events over the autumn and winter to include walks, volunteering days and tree planting. Badger Vaccinations: The badger vaccinators finished their final rounds of vaccination over the weekend of the 5/6th of October. Thank you to our tenant farmers for their support.	Ongoing	Andrew Danson	Yes
Conservation Management Plan	Correspondence has been passed on to consultants for them to review prior to publication of the CMP. Awaiting final response from consultant.	Autumn 24	Andrew Danson	Yes
Sherborne Brook / Broadwater	JBA consultants still working on final detailed design for Sherborne Brook Management option. Currently exploring options for disposal of waste materials within the impacted area.	November 24	Simon Nicholas	Yes

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	Community events will be held this autumn when the plans are complete.			
Boathouse / Turbine	Have received Arborist report on impact of reinstating elements of Lady Sherborne's Walk on the trees within the area. Will carry out Heritage impact assessments and Environmental impact assessments over the autumn.	Ongoing	Andrew Danson	Yes
Tree Planting	Our first planting days are on the horizon, with disease resistant elm scheduled to be planted at Lodge Park in November. We will be reintroducing hedge laying to Sherborne Farm throughout the winter, starting with the double hedge row to the north-east corner of the estate. Planting is due to commence on Woodland creation scheme on Sherborne Farm.	Planting on Sherborne Farm scheme will begin this autumn.	Andrew Danson	Yes
SANG Funding	Have received unofficial confirmation that our CDC SANG fund bid was successful. Minutes on CDC website from cabinet meeting are also positive.	Delivery of 2023 funding will be complete by end of the year. We expect to hear from CDC on status of 2024 bid by the end of September	Andrew Danson	Yes
Walling	The restoration of the North Wall at Lodge Park continues.		Simon Nicholas	Yes
Wildlife	A fairly quiet September, with most species' movements coming towards the end of the month. Returning wigeon were spotted on the Sherborne Brook		Luke Hunter	Yes

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	last week (3rd October). 30+ teal were also spotted that day – some of the resident species probably bolstered by returning or transient winter birds. Stonechats appear to have been quite conspicuous in recent weeks as well; perhaps moving through to winter grounds. Very few house martins and swallows remain now, there was incredible flocks over the Broadwaters and Water meadows in the middle of the month gathering up before moving back to their summer grounds in sub-Saharan Africa; the longer sward afforded by timely cattle grazing likely offered them one big insect feast before moving on... incidentally it looks lovely to see the Sandy Hill Mob Herefords grazing down there at the moment. Luke has spotted a kingfisher along the brook in Cowham.			
Ash Dieback	A dangerous ash was felled along the A40 between Windrush Camp West Woodland and the Home Farm tenancy; in addition, we have made a start on trees around some of the minor roads across the estate. Ash dieback continues to be an enormous resource drain through the autumn and winter. As mentioned previously, if anyone has concerns about any trees then do, please get in contact and we will have look. Numerous dangerous trees were removed from the A40 last week including 8 elms with Dutch elm disease, an abnormally leaning cherry, dead Scots pine and larch, plus a considerable beech that has been growing over the A40. Poplars in Sherborne Brook were also removed/reduced through the month, a continuation of	Ongoing	Luke Hunter	Yes

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	the work started last year. Lime, laurel, and ash in the vicinity of Sherborne village are scheduled for work as soon as the correct permissions are received, in addition to some trees in the village. Tree Safety Management: Our October is almost entirely taken up by tree safety management, differing from ash dieback, we again visit the highest usage zones of the estate to assess trees; September and October tends to be the best time for this so we can spot fruiting fungal bodies, whilst also being able to see canopies before leaf drop.			
Volunteering	September was an attempt to tackle as many of the ‘dry jobs’ as possible before some sections of the estate – particular to the north-east – become inaccessible. We trialled a repair to a breach on the Sherborne Brook in Cowham and removed another dangerous bridge; there are 52 bridges across the Sherborne estate to look after and only a small window in which many of them can be safely worked on. Rangers Ollie and Ben also conducted some ride management north of the A40 along the Arnolds Spring woodland, and south of the A40 in Snowbottom Belt. We began work on restoring a small lost orchard in Sherborne Farm; We have a fruit specialist joining us in the next few weeks to see whether we can introduce any rare Gloucestershire or Cotswolds species to this.	Ongoing	Luke Hunter	Yes

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	We also had a corporate group join us from the Painswick Rococo Gardens; they helped us mulch trees at Lodge Park as well as prune some dead wood out of our establishing trees.			
Surveying	The Sherborne Estate Farms Wildlife Monitoring project: The summer leg of our surveying has finished now, however I'm keen to try and gain a little bit of representation for winter species so in a slight change of step the volunteers will be returning twice more before the end of the year to survey their zones across Woeful Lake specifically for winter birds.	Ongoing	Luke Hunter	Yes